

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 NICOSI 02497 260450Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 251250Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4224
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN

S E C R E T NICOSIA 2497

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR CY GW
SUBJECT: GERMAN AMBASSADOR REPORTS GOC THOUGHTS ON TERRITORY

1. ON AUGUST 24, FRG AMBASSADOR PAGENSTERT TOLD CHARGE THAT IN A CONVERSATION EARLIER IN AUGUST GOC FONMIN CHRISTOPHIDES HAD INDICATED THAT GOC COULD LIKE WITH TURKISH CYPRIOT RETENTION OF THIRTY-TWO PERCENT OF THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF THE ISLAND. ACCORDING TO PAGENSTERT, CHRISTOPHIDES SAID THAT IF SOMEBODY COULD WHISPER 32 PERCENT IN TURKS' EAR THIS MIGHT FORM BASIS FOR MEANINGFUL TALKS.

2. PAGENSTERT PASSED THIS ALONG TO BONN. FRG EMBASSY ANKARA WAS INSTRUCTED TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSAL WITH GOT. FRG EMBASSY CARRIED OUT ITS INSTRUCTIONS BUT IN DESULTORY WAY. HIGHEST TURKISH OFFICIAL THEY COULD SEE WAS NUMBER TWO ON CYPRUS DESK. LATTER'S RESPONSE TO GERMAN APPROACH WAS THAT GOT DOES NOT WANT TO ENGAGE IN PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF PERCENTAGES. APPARENTLY FRG EMBASSY ANKARA LET IT DROP AT THAT EVEN THOUGH IT WAS CLEAR THAT PROPOSAL WAS FOR SECRET EXCHANGE, NOT PUBLIC. PAGENSTERT WAS DISPLEASED AND HAS TRIED TO GET THE MATTER RAISED IN ANKARA AGAIN BUT WITHOUT SUCCESS TO DATE.

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3. COMMENT: IF GOC WERE IN FACT WILLING TO CONSIDER TERRITORIAL

COMPROMISE LEAVING 32 PERCENT OF THE LAND IN TURKISH HANDS, THIS
WOULD LAY GROUNDWORK FOR A SIGNIFICANT NEGOTIATING BREAK-
THROUGH. WE HAVE HAD EARLIER EXPERIENCES, HOWEVER, OF
"BREAKTHROUGHS" REPORTED BY THE GERMANS, AND THUS WE WILL REMAIN
SOMEWHAT SKEPTICAL UNTIL WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO FLESH OUT THIS
INFORMATION A BIT FURTHER. FACT THAT GERMAN FOLLOW-UP TO THIS
POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION WAS LESS THAN ARDENT IS
CURIOUS AND MAY SUGGEST THAT CHRISTOPHIDES' STATEMENT WAS NOT AS
DIRECT OR UNQUALIFIED AS PAGENSTERT INDICATED. IN ANY CASE,
WE WILL BE SEEING CHRISTOPHIDES IN CONNECTION WITH REPORTING
ON COLOMBO CONFERENCE AND WILL STTEMPT TO RAISE THIS SUBJECT
DISCREETLY IN THE CONVERSATION.
DILLERY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NICOSI02497
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760325-0331
From: NICOSIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760821/aaaaarvp.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <05 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GERMAN AMBASSADOR REPORTS GOC THOUGHTS ON TERRITORY
TAGS: PFOR, CY, GE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006